

SOME NOTABLE ADDITIONS TO THE MACROLEPIDOPTERA OF JERSEY

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JERSEY LIES about 200km from mainland Britain but only 23km from the coast of France. The island boasts some of the most beautiful and diverse habitats, from wild, exposed heaths to lush, undisturbed valleys; an entomologist's dream. In political terms the Channel Islands form part of the British Isles, but biogeographically they do not. Nevertheless, despite a minor continental influence on its native flora and fauna the following records are a valuable addition to the British list.

The continuously warm summer of 1995 produced some new and exciting additions to the Jersey list. Here follows a brief account of the specimens illustrated and other past notable discoveries.

***Nola chlamytulalis* (Hb.) (Nolidae)** Plate D, Figure 1.

While light trapping at La Haule, Jersey on 16.viii.1963 R. Long took a small Nolid moth resembling a Kent Black Arches *Meganola albula*. It was identified by D.J. Fletcher as *Celama chlamytulalis* (Hübner) which is reported to be a native of southern Europe and Asia Minor. This is the first British record of the moth, and I know of no other coloured illustration of this species in a British Journal.

***Acontia lucida* (Hufn.) Pale Shoulder (Noctuidae)** Plate D, Figure 2.

Although over a dozen specimens of this moth were taken in the British Isles during the last century, only eight bear reasonable data: four near Dover, Kent in June 1825; one, Brighton, Sussex on 25.viii.1859; one, Dover, 1872; and two, again from Dover in 1876. R. Eden made the first record this century at West Bexington, Dorset as did J. Owen at Dymchurch, Kent, both specimens taken on 5.viii.94. The moth illustrated represents the first this century for the Channel Isles and was taken at m.v. light at Les Quennevais, St. Brelade, Jersey on 28.vii.95.

***Stegania cararia* Hb. (Geometridae)** Plate D, Figure 3.

A moth taken at Howard Davis Farm, Trinity, Jersey between 1-3.viii.81 remained unidentified until 1986 when Adrian Riley of the Rothamsted Insect Survey identified it as *S. cararia*. This is a remarkable first record of a non-British species whose range includes south-east Europe and Asia. Full details appeared in *Entomologist's Record* 99: 65-66.

***Cryphia algae* (Fabr.) The Tree-lichen Beauty (Noctuidae)** Plate D, Figure 4.

The first confirmed record of this species within the British Isles was of two specimens taken in Manchester in July 1859 (Edleston, 1860). However, Ellis (1890) stated the moths had been taken at Disley, Cheshire and were in the collection of Joseph Sidebotham having been supplied to him by

Edleston. It took a hundred years before this attractive moth was again to be recorded, when on 24.viii.1990 T.N.D. Peet took one in Guernsey. Peet took a further specimen the following year on 1.ix.1991. M. Schaffer took a specimen on Herm on 2.ix.1991. The illustration shows a specimen taken at light at Gorey, Jersey on 28.vii.1995 which represents the tenth British record this century. Other known records are:

- 21.viii.1991 Southsea, Hampshire, J. Langmaid.
- 01.ix.1991 Walberton, West Sussex, J.T. Radford.
- 08.viii.1992 Walberton, West Sussex, J.T. Radford.
- 27.viii.1992 Freshwater, Isle of Wight, S.A. Knill-Jones.
- 19.vii.1995 Dungeness, Kent, S. Clancy.
- 26.vii.1995 Southsea, Hampshire, J. Langmaid.
- 01.viii.1995 Walberton, West Sussex, J.T. Radford.
- 01.viii.1995 Dungeness, Kent, K. Redshaw.
- 02.viii.1995 Chilling, Hampshire, P. Potts.
- 10.viii.1995 Weymouth, Dorset, P. Sterling.

***Thaumetopoea processionea* (L.) Oak Processionary (Thaumetopoeidae)**
Plate D, Figure 5.

The first British records of this moth are of two specimens taken on the same night, 19.viii.1983 – one in Guernsey and the other at Mawnan, Cornwall. Jersey's first record followed a year later on 21.viii.1984. A further three specimens were taken between 10-12.ix.1985. I took my first on 22.vii.1989 at Gorey, Jersey, and since then the moth has appeared in increasing annual numbers, the most being ten on 2.ix.1993. The moth is well established and has been recorded from five localities. 1995 proved to be an exceptional year on mainland Britain with no less than ten records coming from seven counties. The moth illustrated represents a specimen taken at Gorey on 1.ix.1993.

***Evergestis limbata* (L.) (Pyralidae)** Plate D, Figure 6.

This dainty and attractively-marked moth was first recorded on Guernsey on 18.vii.1990 when T.N.D. Peet took a single specimen at m.v. light. The second record was made three years later when S.R. Colenutt took a specimen at light on 14.vii.1993 at Chale Green, Isle of Wight. Colenutt took a further two specimens at the same location the following year on 20.vii and 23.vii. I took the fifth British example of this moth at light on 19.vii.1995 at Gorey, Jersey. Since then a further two specimens have been taken; Isle of Wight on 21.vii.1995 (S.R. Colenutt) and Portslade, East Sussex on 11.ix.1995 (R. Cronin).

***Polyphaenis sericata* (Esp.) Guernsey Underwing (Noctuidae)** Plate D, Figure 7.

This species was first cited as British from Guernsey in 1872, when Newman reported taking the moth. However the first authenticated record was published in 1890, when Luff reported finding the larvae of this species

feeding on the lower leaves of Honeysuckle. Almost a century later the moth was rediscovered when R. Austin took a single specimen at m.v. light at Petit Bôt, Guernsey in 1986. T.N.D. Peet took a further specimen in his garden at Le Chene in 1989. In 1990, D. Agassiz and J. Langmaid recorded several to light at Moulin Huet and Saints. The moth is considered to be a fairly common resident in Guernsey, especially in the southern coastal valleys, which were overlooked until recently (R. Austin, *pers. comm.*). I took the first Jersey specimen of this moth at Gorey on the 23.vi.1989, and since then it has turned up almost annually at this one location. I discovered a new site in 1993, about 7km from Gorey and it is perhaps worth noting that both sites are close to the sea. The moth illustrated was taken at Gorey on 31.vii.95.

***Trachea atriplicis* (L.) The Orache (Noctuidae) Plate D, Figure 8.**

This beautiful moth became extinct in Britain in 1915. It was originally to be found in the marginal fenlands of Huntingdonshire and Cambridgeshire, and was locally common in Norfolk, Essex, Suffolk and Hertfordshire. It next appeared in 1984, when a single specimen was taken in Guernsey, and on 2.viii.1987 a specimen was recorded from the Rothamsted Insect Survey trap at Trinity, Jersey. I recorded my first Orache in 1993, taking moths between July and August from three localities. By 1995 local sites increased to five with as many as eight specimens being taken in a night. It is worth noting a gravid female taken at light, very late in the year on 12.x.1995, suggesting that the moth may be double-brooded in the south. The moth illustrated is a specimen taken at Gorey on 19.vii.1995.

Recent mainland records:

1986 (four): Essex (2), Kent and Suffolk.

1989 (one): Surrey.

1991 (one): Norfolk.

1994 (one): Kent.

1995 (three): Dorset, Cheshire and Hertfordshire.

***Gluphisia crenata* (Esper) Dusky Marbled Brown (Notodontidae) Plate D, Figure 11.**

There are probably only three authenticated records of this moth having been taken in the British Isles, and all prior to 1855. The first was a female taken at Ongar Park Wood, Essex in June 1839. Another female was taken at the same locality in June 1841. The last was of a specimen bred from a larva beaten from poplar by the Rev. Joseph Greene at Halton, Buckinghamshire in August 1853 (Barrett, 1896). There is also an unconfirmed record of three specimens taken on the Isle of Man in 1870. The specimen illustrated represents the fourth authenticated record for the British list and was taken at light at Gorey, Jersey on 28.vii.1995.

***Catocala elocata* (Esp.) (Noctuidae) Plate D, Figure 12.**

In 1989 R. Long's attention was drawn to the G.B. Coney collection of Lepidoptera held in the City of Bristol Museum and Art Gallery, and in

particular the presence of a specimen of *Catocala elocata* Esper, amongst a collection taken in Jersey. He was able to examine and photograph it, and a brief note was published in the *Annual Bulletin of the Société Jersiaise* (Le Quesne, 1990). The moth was taken on 20.x.1903 at St. Saviour, Jersey. Coney probably misnamed the moth initially as his article "Lepidoptera in Jersey, 1903" (Coney, 1903) does not include *C. elocata*, but for the very similar *C. nupta* he records "22 August to 20 October".

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DRYOBOTA LABECULA (ESPER) THE OAK RUSTIC (LEP.: NOCTUIDAE): A NEW BREEDING SPECIES TO THE BRITISH LIST FROM THE CHANNEL ISLANDS.

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DOUBTLESS IT IS every British lepidopterist's ambition to discover a new resident species. My dream was realised when I caught, at light, five gravid females of an unknown noctuid at Gorey, Jersey on 28.x.1991. Two were kept for further examination and the remainder released. Subsequently the moths were identified by Adrian Riley as *Dryobota labecula* (Esper); a species hitherto unrecorded in either the Channel Islands or mainland Britain.

Life history

It is hoped to produce a detailed account of the life history at some point in the future, but in order to alert recorders to the species' presence, at least in